

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~The poker game of claim 1~~ A method for playing a poker game, comprising in combination:

dealing, face up, a NxN array of cards;

selecting none, some, or all of the cards to be held in the NxN array of cards of any said cards within said NxN array;

dealing new cards to replace unselected cards within said NxN array;

determining the poker hand rankings of predefined N card arrangements; and

wherein said NxN array of cards is a 3x3 array of cards.

Claim 4-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~The poker game method of claim 6~~ A method for playing a poker game, comprising in combination:

dealing, face up, a NxN array of cards;

selecting none, some, or all of the cards to be held in the NxN array of cards of any said cards within said NxN array;

dealing new cards to replace unselected cards within said NxN array;

determining the poker hand rankings of predefined N card arrangements;

wherein said NxN array of cards is a 5x5 array of cards;

further comprising 12 said N card arrangements arranged as five vertical lines, five horizontal lines, and two diagonal lines; and

~~further comprising~~ allowing the purchase of said 12 said N card arrangements sequentially in a predetermined order.

Claims 8 (withdrawn): A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for playing a poker game, said method comprising in combination:

dealing, face up, a NxN array of cards;

selecting none, some, or all of the cards to be held in the NxN array of cards;

dealing new cards to replace unselected cards; and

determining the poker hand rankings of predefined N card arrangements.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The poker game of claim 8 wherein said NxN array of cards is a 5x5 array of cards.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The poker game of claim 8 wherein said NxN array of cards is a 3x3 array of cards.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The poker game method of claim 8 further comprising placing a wager on at least one payline prior to the initial dealing of the cards.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The poker game method of claim 11 further comprising determining whether said at least one payline wagered on includes a winning outcome after determining the poker hand rankings and if so, paying the player according to a pay table.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The poker game method of claim 9 further comprising 12 paylines arranged as five vertical lines, five horizontal lines, and two diagonal lines.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The poker game method of claim 13 further comprising allowing the purchase of said 12 paylines sequentially in a predetermined order.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A video poker game machine, comprising in combination:
means for displaying to a player a NxN array of cards;
means activated by the player for selecting some, none, or all of said cards to be held in said array;
means for displaying replacement cards for said cards not selected as held in said array, if any;
and means for determining the poker hand rankings of predefined N card arrangements.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The video poker game machine of claim 15 further comprising a touchscreen as at least one means activated by the player for selecting some, none, or all of said cards to be held in said array.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The video poker game machine of claim of claim 16 further comprising means for wagering at least one coin to activate the game.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The video poker game machine of claim 17 further comprising means for awarding an amount according to a pay table and said amount wagered when the value of a had is determined to be a winning value.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The video poker game machine of claim 18 wherein said NxN array of cards is a 5x5 array of cards.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The ~~video~~ poker game machine of claim 18 wherein said NxN array of cards is a 3x3 array of cards.

Claim 21-26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (currently amended): ~~The method for playing the poker game of claim 24~~ A method for playing a poker game, comprising in combination:

dealing, face up, a NxN array of cards;

selecting some, none, or all of any of the cards within said NxN array of cards to be held;

replacing unselected cards with new cards;

determining the poker hand rankings of predefined N card arrangements wherein any said card is implicated in at least two N card arrangements of hands;

wagering on one or more said N card arrangements prior to said dealing step;

comparing said determined poker hand rankings to a pay table and paying a multiple of said

wager according to a payout schedule in said pay table;

providing a 52 card deck for dealing and replacing said cards; and

defining N as three and including at least each three card row and each three card column in said predefined N card arrangements.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method for playing the poker game of claim 27 further including at least said three card diagonal groups of cards in said predefined N card arrangements.

Claims 29-30 (canceled)

Claim 31(currently amended):~~The method for playing the poker game utilizing a standard 52~~

~~card playing deck of claim 30 further comprising~~ A method for playing a poker game utilizing a standard 52 card playing deck, comprising in combination:

dealing 25 cards face up in a five row by five column arrangement;

permitting a player to hold none, some, or all of any of said 25 cards;

replacing each card not held with a card from the remaining cards in the deck;

comparing each five card row and column group of cards to predefined poker rules to determine ten hand rankings;

additionally comparing two diagonal five card groups extending one from a near top corner to a far bottom corner of said five row by five column arrangement of cards and another from a far top corner to a near bottom corner of said five row by five column arrangement of cards to predefined poker rules to determine an additional two hand rankings; and

receiving a wager from a player for each row, column, or diagonal group of five cards

sequentially in a predetermined order prior to dealing said cards.

Claim 32 (previously presented):The method for playing the poker game utilizing a standard 52 card playing deck of claim 31 further comprising paying the player according to a pay table as related to said hand rankings and said wager.

Claim 33 (new): The poker game method of claim 7 further comprising determining whether said at least one said N card arrangements purchased includes a winning outcome after determining the poker hand rankings and if so, paying the player according to a pay table.

Claim 34 (new): The poker game method of claim 3 further comprising placing a wager on at least one said N card arrangements prior to the initial dealing of the cards.

Claim 35 (new): The poker game method of claim 34 further comprising determining whether said at least one said N card arrangements wagered on includes a winning outcome after determining the poker hand rankings and if so, paying the player according to a pay table.

Claim 36 (new): The poker game method of claim 3 further comprising eight said N card arrangements arranged as three vertical lines, three horizontal lines, and two diagonal lines.

Claim 37 (new): The poker game method of claim 36 further comprising allowing the purchase of said eight said N card arrangements sequentially in a predetermined order.

Claim 38 (new): The method for playing the poker game of claim 35 further comprising providing a 52 card deck for dealing and replacing said cards.

Claim 39 (new): The method for playing the poker game of claim 37 further comprising providing a 52 card deck for dealing and replacing said cards.

Claim 40 (new): A method for playing a poker game, comprising in combination:

dealing, face up, a NxN array of cards;

selecting some, none, or all of any of the cards within said NxN array of cards to be held;

replacing unselected cards with new cards;

determining the poker hand rankings of predefined N card arrangements wherein any said card is implicated in at least two N card arrangements of hands; and

defining N as three and including at least each three card row and each three card column in said predefined N card arrangements.

Enclosure
Claim 41 (new): The method for playing the poker game of claim 40 further including at least said three card diagonal groups of cards in said predefined N card arrangements.

Claim 42 (new): The method for playing the poker game of claim 40 further comprising wagering on one or more said N card arrangements prior to said dealing step.

Claim 43 (new): The method for playing the poker game of claim 42 further comprising comparing said determined poker hand rankings to a pay table and paying a multiple of said wager according to a payout schedule in said pay table.

Claim 44 (new): The method for playing the poker game of claim 43 further comprising providing a 52 card deck for dealing and replacing said cards.
